

Abstract of the Disclosure:

A method for driving a semiconductor switch with load current limiting and thermal protection whose maximum load current is limited and which switches off when a predetermined upper
5 temperature is exceeded and switches on again when a predetermined lower temperature is crossed. The semiconductor switch is operated in a normal mode and a fault mode. The semiconductor switch is driven in the fault mode once the predetermined temperature is exceeded; and the load current is
10 limited to a first maximum value in a normal mode and a second maximum value, which is lower than the first maximum value, in a fault mode. Such a circuit configuration with a semiconductor switch has a protection circuit and a sensor circuit.

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